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Rhode Island Library Association

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# Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 28, no. 1

RILA

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# **BULLETIN**

of the

## **RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

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Vol. 28

May, 1956

No. 1

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### **SPRING MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

**Tuesday, May 8, 1956**

**ROGER WILLIAMS PARK MUSEUM**

**Roger Williams Park, Elmwood Avenue, Providence, R. I.**

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#### **PROGRAM**

10:15—Registration

10:30—Business Meeting

11:00—Demonstration of the Museum's Spitz Planetarium with a brief tour of the Museum.

Miss Maribelle Cormack, Curator of the Park Museum.

2:00—"The evaluative program of the secondary schools"  
Dr. Howard D. Wood, Principal of Hope High School

3:00—"The Kingston Museum"  
Mrs. F. D. Tootell, Trustee of the Kingston Free Library

## LUNCHEON

Luncheon will be served at the Church of the Transfiguration, 1665 Broad St., at 12:30 noon. Following the luncheon, members of the R.I.L.A. will be able to attend the afternoon session in the hall at the Church, thus cancelling any need for additional transportation. The meeting will reconvene at 2:00 p.m. and end at approximately 3:30 p.m.

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## OUR SPEAKERS

Miss Maribelle Cormack comes of Scottish descent, her father being born in the Orkney Islands, though she herself was born in Buffalo. When she was twelve, the Cormack family made a return trip to Scotland, and Miss Cormack's recollections of this visit colored much of her writing for young people later on. She has had published many stories and books of nonfiction for children. Her interest in astronomy is far-reaching, and through her own enthusiasm the Planetarium in Roger Williams Park received its initial impetus . . . Miss Cormack holds American college degrees in American Literature and Biology, and has done graduate work at the Universities of Vienna and Geneva, as well. A recent visit to Hawaii, where she engaged in research at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, has given lustre to the Pacific Hall of Roger Williams Park Museum.

Dr. Howard D. Wood, principal of Hope St. High School, will speak on "The evaluative program of the Secondary Schools", with special reference to the section of this program which affects Public and School Librarians in particular.

Dr. Wood has been principal at Hope High School since September 1938. Previously he was principal at Roger Williams Junior High School for over six years, and while in this capacity did much to develop a guidance program for studies and activities which has given new life to student-teacher relationships. Dr. Wood has always specialized in educational administration and has made signal contributions through his work in the Providence Schools.

Mrs. F. D. Tootell, a Trustee of the Kingston Free Library, will speak on the development of the museum which is connected to the Library. Although housed in a separate stone building, it is an excellent place for keeping old and valuable town records, deeds and small historic objects which were donated to the Library by friends and older citizens of the township.

## NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

The nominating committee of the Rhode Island Library Association presents the following slate of Officers for the year 1956-1957.

President—Mr. David Jonah, Director of Libraries, Brown University.

First vice president—Miss Dorothy Budlong, Librarian, Elmwood Public Library.

Second vice president—Mr. Charles Taylor, Assistant Librarian, Providence Public Library.

Recording secretary—Mr. Rowell Waller, First Assistant, Reference Department, Providence Public Library.

Corresponding secretary—Mrs. Kirby Carr (Mrs. E. Hagen Carr) Librarian Tockwotton Branch, Providence Public Library.

Treasurer—Mr. Thomas P. Hazard, Chairman of the Board, Peace Dale Public Library.

Executive committee—The Officers and  
Mr. Frank Allen, Librarian, University of Rhode Island.

Mr. Walter Curley, Assistant, Business, Industry and Science Department, Providence Public Library.

Miss Rose Minkins, Librarian, West Senior High School, Pawtucket.

Respectfully submitted,

MISS HELEN ALDERMAN

MRS. HARRIET SHAW

MISS MARJORIE E. SMITH, *Chairman*

MR. WALTER CURLEY, *ex-officio*.

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## LIBRARY EXHIBITS DURING R. I. HERITAGE WEEK

Rhode Island will parade its heritage in special exhibits throughout the state when it observes the 180th anniversary of its Declaration of Independence from Great Britain during the first week in May.

Large and small public libraries, university libraries, and historical societies will be displaying exhibitions which will reveal the richness of the state's heritage. All libraries are encouraged to participate. Detailed news of the numerous exhibitions will be widely distributed by the R. I. Development Council and the newspapers of the state.



## AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The 75th Annual Conference of the American Library Association will be held in Miami Beach, June 17 to 23, with 3,500 librarians expected to participate in a program which has been streamlined to provide sufficient free time for enjoyment of the famous resort facilities of the area.

The Fontainebleau is the Headquarters Hotel, where ALA offices will be located and larger meetings accommodated. Exhibits will be housed in tents on the Fontainebleau grounds.

ALA President John S. Richards, Librarian, Seattle Public Library, will preside at the opening General Session on Monday (June 18) evening, and at the closing General Session on Friday (June 22) evening, when new officers will be introduced and President-elect Ralph R. Shaw, Graduate School of Library Service, Rutgers University, will be inaugurated as President.

The annual Newberry-Caldecott Awards Dinner will be held on Tuesday (June 19) evening.

Author Jessamyn West will be speaker at the Third General Session, Wednesday (June 20) evening, jointly sponsored with the Division of Libraries for Children and Young People, American Association of School Librarians, and National Book Committee.

Conference reservations should be made by addressing the ALA Housing Bureau, P. O. Box 1511, Miami Beach, Florida.

New members are invited to join the A.L.A. at any time. Dues which range from \$6.00 a year and up, according to salary, may be sent directly to Miss Cora M. Beatty, Chief, Membership Services Dept., A.L.A., 50 East Huron St., Chicago 11, Illinois. The Chairman for Rhode Island will be glad to give detailed information to anyone interested and will be readily available at the R.I.L.A. Convention. Rhode Island needs more members to meet its quota and present members are urged to pay their 1956 dues promptly.

NATALIE E. BRIGGS,  
*Chairman,*

Rhode Island A.L.A. Membership Committee

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## NEW ENGLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The 1956 conference of the New England Library Association will be held at the New Ocean House, Swampscott, Massachusetts, October 4-6. The theme of the conference will be "Libraries Look Forward." The program, at present incomplete, will include the following speakers: Charles A. Siepmann, Professor of Education and Chairman of the Department of Communications in Education at New York University, and author of books on freedom of speech and mass communication; Virginia Kirkus of Virginia Kirkus' Service for book reviewing; John S. Richards, Librarian of the Seattle Public Library and President of the American Library Association; and David H. Clift, Executive Secretary of the American Library Association.

Hotel room reservations should be made directly with the New Ocean House.

BULLETIN  
OF THE  
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION

R.I.L.A. BULLETIN COMMITTEE

NORBERT BERNSTEIN  
Providence Public Library

PAULINE TWITCHELL  
Brown University Library

CAROL M. GREENE  
Brown University Library

Vol. 28                      MAY, 1956                      No. 1

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FROM THE FOUR CORNERS  
OF THE STATE

**Auburn Public Library**

The big news at the Auburn Public Library is the gift of a new Library Charging desk with matching swivel chairs for our Children's Library.

The money to make this purchase was presented most unexpectedly at the Christmas party of our Library's Board of Trustees. The desk is to be given in memory of Mrs. Mary Greene by Mrs. Robert P. Winsor and Mr. Ralph Winsor, a board member.

Our separate Children's Library has been open for five years, and during this time we have used a large table for charging desk. This gift will be a beautiful, most useful, and much needed addition to the Children's Library.

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**Barrington Public Library**

The Barrington Public Library celebrated its 75th Anniversary on November 11th, with an "open house" to which the townspeople and librarians of nearby libraries

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were invited. Pictures of olden days were on exhibit. Library patrons were happy to lend the pictures and newcomers to the town vied with one another in identifying places and people. Mrs. Emma Bradford, the first Librarian and Librarian for fifty years was present, as well as Miss Mary Falt, former Librarian, and now Librarian in Glastonbury, Conn.

After our celebration, we settled down to a winter of high circulation and heavy demands from the schools, hardly interrupted by our numerous blizzards. We feel such pressing need for a larger Junior Room and Reference Room that a Library Expansion Committee has been formed, with Henry S. Chaffee as Chairman. We, of the library, are hoping for a new building, but we may have to be content with an addition to an already sprawling building. We are now studying population statistics and trends, recent library architecture, and school assignments and schedules to enable us to present a clear picture of what we need and why. When we have all our ammunition, we will venture forth.

SUSAN E. DEMERY,  
*Librarian*



## Elmwood Public Library

The Elmwood Public Library was happy to have been chosen by the A. L. A. Great Books Selection Committee to receive one of the 1,600 sets of Great Books of the Western World.

In the fall an illustrated lecture on "Scenery and Culture of Korea" was given in our Auditorium by Mr. William Austin of the Graduate School, Brown University.

In March, we sponsored two evening travelogues with the World Affairs Council of Rhode Island. At the first one Mrs. Harold P. Williams of Cranston, showed kodachrome slides and told about "The Mayflower Pilgrimage to England and Holland." Color movies telling about our Latin American neighbors were shown at the second one.

The Librarian participated in the annual Careers Day program held at Hope High School last November.

We now have a new Ditto machine and have been compiling monthly book lists.

We are in the process of starting a record collection which we hope to have available to the public this spring.

DOROTHY W. BUDLONG,  
*Librarian*

## Providence Public Library

The spotlight for 1956 is focused on the Washington Park Branch. With the commissioning of an architect and the submitting of sketches and proposals, the possibility of Hose 18 Fire Station being transformed into the new home of the Washington Park Branch becomes more a reality and less of a dream.

During the fall and winter months our meeting room was used by the University of Rhode Island Extension Division to conduct a survey course in the fundamentals of library science. Professor Allen taught the course to an eager group of over 60. The

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success of this course has encouraged the Extension Division to explore the possibility of a more ambitious program in Librarianship at a future date.

We continue to make ourselves heard and seen in the community by sponsoring a television and two radio programs, and conducting noon hour music record concerts and book talks. The noon hour book chats have proven that people still enjoy talking about good books in a friendly and informal atmosphere.

A weekly list of events, "What's Going on at the Providence Public Library", is sent to about 70 persons and places, making up a cross section of downtown Providence, so that our noon time activities are brought to the attention of downtown workers and shoppers. The response has been encouraging. This weekly list of events is also distributed widely in the community, through our branches and the central building.

## THE RHODE ISLAND NEWS COMPANY

55 Hope Street

Providence, R. I.

*Books of all publishers at  
lowest prices.*

A new addition to our staff is Miss Jean Nash, formerly Regional Librarian for the Fall River Area, and now Librarian at the Wanskuck Branch.

The following young women received appointments to the Library staff upon graduating from the Library Training Class in February: Norma D. DiBattista, Cecile J. Dufresne, Ruth Y. Ingraham, Barbara Lydon, Barbara M. Marandola, and Judith A. McCauley. Our Training Class will reach a milestone when in September of 1956 it enters its 30th year.

### Providence-Barrington Bible College

The library of Providence-Barrington Bible College has acquired two significant collections of religious materials recently.

One collection has netted around 900 titles in religion, of which nearly half are devoted to specialized areas of Church history. This collection also includes a valuable pamphlet collection, as yet uncataloged, which deals extensively with obscure religious cults.

The second but major collection consists of the library of the Head of the Department of Religious Studies in a prominent New England University. It contains approxi-

mately 1300 titles and is especially rich in documentation for research in biblical and historical fields.

A collection of about 2000 titles in literature and travel is being processed by the library at present. Other additions to the library services in recent months include a small beginning collection of the College Archives, a microfilm reader and films, an audio-visual department including 1500 slides and a small group of filmstrips, and a phonograph record collection of about 3000 items consisting chiefly of classical music.

F. WILBUR HELMBOLD,  
*Librarian*

### Tyler Free Library

With the gift from the town of Foster of the old Moosup Valley School house, 'across the way' the stack space of the Tyler Free Library will be doubled. The original Library was built by local neighborhood cooperation, and similarly the renovation of the school building is being done by donated labor and materials. This school house has an interesting history, built approximately 150 years ago; the basement at one time served as a Church, and was known as the "Vestry", and this locality at that time took its name from it—The Vestry District. Town records show that this was a "subscription" school", a privately run and supported school, typical of its time.

The Tyler Free Library, Foster, R.I. would like to obtain a second-hand catalog cabinet. Please contact Lilla Knight, Greene, R. I., if you have any available.

JESSIE BENNIS,  
*Librarian*

### Weaver Memorial Library East Providence, R. I.

We are proud to announce that our circulation for 1955 was 92,502 and of this 50,429 was from our Children's Room. The children's circulation was a 10% gain over last year.

CAROLINE A. BOWEN,  
*Librarian*





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Recent books by Rhode Island authors — courtesy of the Rhode Island Index, Providence Public Library.

Blaisdell, Ethel F.

And God caught an eel. 1954

Brosia, D. M.

A place of coolness. 1954

Chippendale, Harry Allen

Sails and Whales. 1951

Dolbier, Maurice

A Lion in the woods. 1955

Nowhere near Everest. 1955

Ducas, Curt John

A philosophical scrutiny of religion. 1953

Estey, Charlotte

Picture book of Roger Williams Park, the people's playground. 1950

Hall, Rosalys

The Taylor's Trick. 1955

Howe, George Locke

The heart alone. 1953

Howe, Mark Anthony De Wolfe

Sundown, later and earlier selected poems. 1955

La Farge, Christopher

Beauty for ashes. 1953

The manner is ordinary. 1954

Lasswell, Mary

Tooner schooner. 1953

Loring, Paule

Never argue with the tape. 1954

McLoughlin, William G.

Billy Sunday was his real name. 1955

Moyer, Paul E.

The case for peace. 1955

Newbold, Robert Clifford

The Albany Congress and plan of union of 1754. 1955

O'Connor, Edwin

The last hurrah. 1956

Robinson, Charles Alexander

The spring of civilization: Periclean Athens. 1954

Tuckerman, Arthur

The old school tie. 1954

In January Miss Sally Coy and Mr. Curley addressed a gathering of PTA members in Providence. The Survey and how PTA can aid local libraries was discussed.

In April Mr. Thomas Hazard, Treasurer-Elect and Mr. Curley talked to a group of library minded people at Foster. Mrs. Dorman was the host librarian.

The course in Library Science offered by the University of Rhode Island Extension division at the Providence Public Library last year will be succeeded in the Fall by an enlarged curriculum leading to a Certificate in library service. Librarians throughout the state will be notified of developments in the immediate future.

Mr. Peter R. Murrow is the well known Librarian of a Middle West University Library. The following is an excerpt of a speech given at a library association meeting some time ago.

## PURPOSE OF STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

. . . State library associations should pursue on the local level the objectives of our national organizations. State aid, state legislation, publicity, budgets for the State Library are only a few of the problems that are rightly the concern of state library associations.

Often too, district meetings are the only ones that the librarian of smaller libraries can afford to attend. Their problems which are of a practical, day-to-day nature can be resolved through local workshops or free discussion forums where, by necessity, the audience should be limited to those who are interested in those problems . . .

The officer of any organization should be able to handle his job to the best of his ability. Even more important is the fact that this officer should be the one who can best handle the office. There is work to be done and the reason why so many state library associations lack the strength of other professional organizations is that too often the leadership is proffered as an honor rather than as a duty . . .

Every organization has a "house organ" and library associations are no exceptions. In gathering local news, state library associations bulletins should not try to compete with national library periodicals. The cost is too prohibitive for one thing. For another, members of a local organization are rightly interested in local news and local problems . . .

A library association meeting should be an open market for the free exchange of ideas. Remember that your organization is only as strong as the strength imparted to it by its membership. When was the last time you offered help? Did you ever run for an office, or make the attempt? Do you ever speak up at meetings? Do you have any ideas or suggestions that will make your library association more like what you'd like it to be? . . . Remember this, that the best meetings will always be the ones where good leadership meets the interest and the response of its audience . . .

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## PUBLIC LIBRARY SURVEY FOR RHODE ISLAND

In 1955, The Rhode Island Library Association conducted a survey of the public libraries of the state to determine the effectiveness of library service, areas where improvement is needed and what steps might be taken to effect this improvement. On the basis of returns from 59 libraries, the following report is herewith submitted:

The role of the public library in the community is a vital one. As an agency for promoting interest in and materials for in-school and out-of-school education and recreation, it is in a unique position.

The extent of this service, and to a great degree its effectiveness, is closely allied with the financial structure of the library.

Here the survey points out some obvious yet startling facts. The financial structure upon which effective service must be built is sorely lacking. In the state there are some bright spots, but these are generally due to gifts received from public spirited citizens. Unfortunately, these situations are the exceptions rather than the rule.

Only five libraries reporting have an annual income exceeding \$1.50 per capita. This is the figure established by the American Library Association as the minimum necessary for effective library service. Twenty-five libraries have a total income of less than thirty cents per capita, nine receive between thirty and sixty cents per capita, and seven libraries between sixty and ninety cents.



Inadequate as these amounts certainly are, the portions contributed by the respective communities are even more significant.

Only one community, covered by the survey, contributes over one dollar per capita to library support, three communities contribute between eighty cents and a dollar, two between sixty and eighty cents, eight between forty and sixty cents, eight communities contribute between twenty and forty cents per capita, and the remaining twenty-eight between twenty cents and no contribution at all.

What is the Significance of these figures? They mean that lacking necessary funds, most rural libraries are open less than a full week, and in many instances, are open only a few hours. They mean that book stocks are depleted, and valuable reference books are either not to be found on the shelves, or if they are, they are of an out-dated edition. They mean that maintenance, salaries, and services are below the desired level of performance.

That the library is an educational institution is acknowledged. Nowhere may the library make a greater contribution than with its work with the young school children of the community. School libraries are often inadequate or nonexistent. Early closing hours and tight bus schedules place many school libraries beyond the reach of the student. With these young students, the public library stands alone as a source of educational material, and here, due to a lack of materials, facilities, and funds, it cannot adequately meet the challenge.

Adult education would also benefit greatly from a stronger financial structure. The housewife, farmer, businessman and laborer all need a well rounded library.

It is regrettable that while communities are often cognizant of the need for adequate schools and teachers (and well they should be), that these same communities almost totally disregard the needs of and their need for a library. Indeed, if it weren't for the librarian in many cases working for next to nothing, and in some cases donating her salary to the book fund, many libraries would cease to function.

Basically, this is a community problem, and one which should in part be handled by the local citizens.

However, there are areas which are beyond the scope of the individual cities and towns, and where constructive work cannot be done on a local basis. More coordination and better channels for the flow of technical information are definitely needed. Also, many and possibly most towns cannot, due to other financial pressures, meet their library obligations fully. The state, in the past, has recognized this fact and made an attempt to assist libraries just as it has done with schools and other areas of education. Unfortunately, the assistance has been small and compares unfavorably with state expenditures in other fields.

There is need for something to be done to prevent further deterioration of an already weak situation.

The following recommendations are therefore submitted:

1. Every city or town authority should be contacted in 1956 and made aware of the local situation. A request for an increase in funds to provide basic up-to-date reference tools such as encyclopedias and dictionaries should be made. The Association will attempt to assist the librarians by arranging five regional conferences to which trustees will be invited, and where methods for making appeals will be fully explored.

2. Appointment of a State Field Director to assist the State Librarian. The Field Director should be professionally trained and have sufficient professional experience to work with and stimulate the efforts of rural libraries. This would also entail sufficient funds for equipment and expenses needed to carry out the functions of the position.



3. Increased State aid to rural libraries. The Federal Aid Bill to libraries has a chance of passing and becoming law. If it does, the state will have to increase its expenditures to libraries, if it wishes to participate in the program. Under the matching program, expenses incurred now to meet a current need would not further increase the State's obligation.

4. The Rhode Island Library Association should assist or instigate plans for educational facilities and institutes to be made available for librarians, so that they may better be equipped with the tools of their profession.

5. The possibility of shifting or rotating collections being used should be explored fully. In this manner, limited funds might be more fully utilized.

#### 1950

Assessed Valuation of Property in Rhode Island	Per Capita Valuation	Population
\$2,255,993,326.00	\$2,848.50	791,896.
Amounts expended on behalf of and distributed to cities and towns, and amounts expended for state service .....		\$57,912,612.18*

#### Items from 1956 Budget\*

Americanization and citizenship .....	\$ 55,580.
State aid, promotion and public education .....	3,361,000.
School lunch program .....	469,000.
Aid to free public libraries .....	20,000.

\*p. VIII, State Budget 1955-56

State of Rhode Island, Expenditures 1955-56 .....	\$72,005,862.18
(From State Budget 1956)	

#### Expenditures by percentage

Welfare .....	22.0
Public Works .....	20.7
Institutions .....	13.6
Education .....	10.8
Grants-in-aid .....	7.5
Debt service .....	5.9
Pensions and retirements .....	3.2
Health .....	1.7
Judiciary .....	1.5
Agriculture & conservation .....	1.2
All other service .....	11.9
—Of this, Library Extension Service and Aid to Free Libraries .....	.0005

Library Extension Service \$	18,965.00
Aid to Free Libraries	20,000.00
	<hr/>
\$	38,965.00

# **RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

**1955-1956**

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